Remedy for people under REGA Programmes

2309. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have increased the prices of foodgrains and reduced the quantity of foodgrains in rations for BPL and APL families;

(b) whether this has been given effect in case of REGA programmes and other programmes of rural development works where foodgrain is a component; and

(c) whether Government have proposed to prescribe remedy for the people coming under the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of foodgrains under the TPDS for BPL families have remained unchanged since July 2000, while for APL families the CIPs have remained unchanged since July 2002. The entitlement of APL and BPL families @ 35 kg of foodgrains per months has also not been changed, though the ratio between wheat and rice has been altered, keeping in view the loser level of wheat stocks.

(b) and (c) There has been no decision for reduction of foodgrains allocation for other food based schemes.

Procurement of foodgrains by NCDE

†2310. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India has given the responsibility to National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (N.C.D.E.) to procure foodgrains for storage directly from farmers;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons for giving the said responsibility to NCDE;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether there is a chance of earning more profit on the basis of this procurement procedure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Projects to reduce pollution in Ganga and Yamuna

2311. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress in the projects to reduce pollution in the Ganga and the Yamuna;

(b) what is the time frame for the completion of these projects; and

(c) how much provision has been made in the next Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Ganga Action Plan Phase—I (GAP-I) was the first attempt by the Ministry for taking up the works of pollution abatement of the river Ganga in the year 1985. Under this Plan, 259 projects have been completed covering 25 towns in the three states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar & West Bengal leading to the creation of 865 million litres per day (mld) of additional sewage treatment capacity at a cost of Rs. 452 crores. The GAP I was declared completed in March, 2000. Since GAP-I did not cover the pollution load of Ganga fully, GAP Phase II, which included Plans for its tributaries also, was approved in stages from 1993 onwards. Under GAP Phase II, for river Ganga excluding its tributaries, against an approved cost of Rs. 615 crore, an amount of Rs. 246.16 crore has been released to the implementing agencies of the State Governments and out of a total of 267 sanctioned schemes, 80 schemes of pollution abatement of the river have already been completed under this phase.

As regards the river Yamuna, Yamuna Action Plan Phase-I (YAP-I) was launched to take up the pollution abatement works in the State of